

Some changes in nomenclature affect North American birds, for instance *Pisobia aurita* (Latham) must become *P. acuminata* Horsf. since Mr. Mathews states that Sharpe was clearly in error when he claimed that Watlings drawing 244, upon which Latham based his name, represented this bird. It is obviously *Actitis hypoleucos*. Mr. Mathews moreover divides the genus *Pisobia* and places this species in *Limnocinclus*; *Actodromas* being a synonym of true *Pisobia* with *P. minuta* as its type.

The name of the Pectoral Sandpiper must change also, since *Tringa maculata* Vieill. is rendered invalid by *T. maculata* Linn. 1766, we therefore return to *pectoralis* of Say.

The American Knot is separated as *Canutus canutus rufus* Wilson while the Japanese race is described as new under the name *C. c. rogersi*.— W. S.

**Mearns on New African Birds.**<sup>1</sup>— In working over the rich collections of African birds in the U. S. National Museum obtained mainly by himself, Dr. Mearns finds the following new Weaver-birds and Thrushes, *Estrilda rhodopyga polia*, from the Gato River, Southern Abyssinia, *E. rhodopyga hypochra*, *Granatina ianthinogastra roosevelti*, *Planesticus helleri*, *P. olivaceus polius*, *Geocichla piaggie keniensis* and *G. gurneyi raineyi* from British East Africa. While Dr. Mearns' first aim is naturally the description of the new forms obtained by him, ornithologists will await with interest a general account of the collections made on the Smithsonian and the Childs Frick Expeditions which he accompanied as naturalist.— W. S.

**Riley on the Bahama Barn Owl.**<sup>2</sup>— While accompanying the Bahamas Expedition of the Geographic Society of Baltimore a few years ago, Mr. Riley obtained a specimen of a peculiar looking Barn Owl which in the light of additional material now available he describes as new, under the name of *Tyto perlatus lucayanus*.— W. S.

**Shufeldt's Studies of Fossil Birds.**<sup>3</sup>— In the former of two recent publications on North American fossil birds, Dr. Shufeldt presents the results of a reëxamination of the Cope and Condon Collections and a study of

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<sup>1</sup> Descriptions of three new African Weaver-birds of the Genera *Estrilda* and *Granatina*. By Edgar A. Mearns. *Smithson. Misc. Collns.*, Vol. 61, No. 9, pp. 1-4. July 31, 1913.

Descriptions of four New African Thrushes of the Genera *Planesticus* and *Geocichla*. By Edgar A. Mearns. *Smithson. Misc. Collns.*, Vol. 61, No. 10, pp. 1-5. August 11, 1913.

<sup>2</sup> The Bahama Barn Owl. By J. H. Riley. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, XXVI, pp. 153-154. June 30, 1913.

<sup>3</sup> Review of the Fossil Fauna of the Desert Region of Oregon, with a Description of additional Material collected there. By R. W. Shufeldt. *Bull. Amer. Museum Nat. Hist.*, Vol. XXXII, Art. VI, pp. 123-178. New York, July 9, 1913.

Further Studies of Fossil Birds with Descriptions of New and Extinct Species. By R. W. Shufeldt. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. XXXII, Art. XVI, pp. 285-306. New York, August 4, 1913.

other material belonging to the U. S. National Museum and the American Museum of Natural History.<sup>1</sup> A large amount of material is illustrated in half-tone, comprising 578 figures of bones or fragments arranged on 35 plates.

*Colymbus parvus*, *Polilymbus magnus*, *Phalacrocorax macropus* and *Olor matthewsi* from the Oregon Pleistocene are described as new.

In a second paper additional collections belonging to the same institutions are described. Ninety-six specimens are figured on nine plates. *Diatryma ajax*, and *Palæophasianus* (gen. nov.) *meleagroides* from the Wasatch of Wyoming, are described as new, also *Aquila antiqua*, *A. ferox*, and *A. lydekkeri* from the Bridger Formation, Wyoming, and *Proictinia gilmorei*, from the Loup Fork of Kansas.—W. S.

**Hahn on the Future of the North American Fauna.**<sup>2</sup>—The late Dr. Hahn whose unfortunate death was mentioned recently in 'The Auk' has contributed a suggestive paper under the above title. While he has in mind animal life as a whole most of his remarks refer equally well to birds and he constantly quotes birds as examples. We cannot do better than to quote his own résumé in order to give an idea of the manner in which he has treated the subject. "Briefly the tendency of the North American fauna is toward mediocrity. Large species are giving way to small; bizarre species to commonplace. Marsh-loving and forest-loving animals disappear with the advance of civilization, and grass-loving species that are able to exist in fence rows and pastures survive. Animals that yield products of value vanish before the hand of man; likewise his enemies are destroyed unless protected by small size and great fecundity. Courage and the social instinct are at a discount and cunning and timidity at a premium."—W. S.

**Doolin's 'Field, Forest and Stream in Oklahoma.'**<sup>3</sup>—In this attractively printed and well illustrated volume, Mr. Doolin sets a high standard for game wardens' reports. As he says in his 'foreword': "An annual report which recorded merely receipts and expenditures would convey no information such as might lead the public to an understanding of the problems and difficulties that confront those who are desirous of saving all useful forms of wild bird and animal life from extermination. It is especially the purpose of this report to ask the people of Oklahoma for their fullest co-operation in the protection and conservation of disappearing wild life in this state."

<sup>1</sup> Cf. 'The Auk,' 1913, pp. 36-39, for a preliminary review of this study.

<sup>2</sup> The Future of the North American Fauna. By the late Walter L. Hahn, Ph.D. Pop. Sci. Monthly, August, 1913, pp. 169-177.

Cf. p.

<sup>3</sup> Field, Forest and Stream in Oklahoma. Being the 1912 Annual Report of the State Game and Fish Warden, John B. Doolin, to the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, the Honorable Lee Cruce. Roy Svo. pp. 1-159.